

family vacationers, and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the United States and around the globe. They are attracted by Nevada's many unique features, including the fabulous Las Vegas Strip, the Hoover Dam and beautiful outdoor settings ranging from vibrant desert landscapes to grand ski slopes.

Nevada exemplifies the independence, opportunity and pioneering spirit of the West. So I join my fellow Nevadans in celebrating our 145th anniversary.

THE ATHALIE RANGE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize the Athalie Range Cultural Arts Foundation and its upcoming annual Celebration of Life event honoring those who have made significant contributions to the African American community. This year, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson, WHQT General Manager Jerry Rushin, and retired Bacardi Heritage Foundation president Jose Bacardi will be honored.

The Athalie Range Cultural Arts Foundation helps to encourage the appreciation and the enrichment of arts, especially of African American arts, in south Florida. The foundation was named after one of south Florida's most dedicated and courageous residents.

Athalie Range was a pioneer in our community, first as a civil rights activist and later as a public official. As the PTA president of Liberty City Elementary, she became a champion for the students of Miami-Dade County. She informed the school board about the deplorable conditions of Liberty City schools, and she demanded better resources for those schools.

Athalie became the first African American to serve on the Miami City Commission, and she also became the first African American and the first woman to head the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Athalie Range lived a life of humility that underscored her deep commitment to civil rights, justice and opportunity for all.

I commend the Athalie Range Cultural Arts Foundation for continuing in Athalie's footsteps, for helping to support the arts and for enriching the lives of all of south Florida residents.

ENERGY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in January, President Obama took office while facing the worst economic crisis in generations.

Faced with that tremendous challenge, President Obama and the Democratic Congress responded with the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, an aggressive plan to jump-start our economy and to create jobs.

As we look back on the Recovery Act's first 8 months, its success in averting catastrophe is clear. We are not out of the woods yet, and much more work remains to create good jobs and to lower unemployment; but there are positive signs that the recession is over and that the economic policies pursued by the Democrats are starting to work.

Just last week, the Obama administration made important announcements to invest \$3.4 billion into the smart energy grid and into the first round of awards under the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, or the ARPA-E program. These announcements by the administration show that the Recovery Act is working, giving investors the confidence they need to leverage private funds to create new clean-energy jobs to put people back to work and to revolutionize the way we power our economy and drive American innovation.

PELOSI'S TAKEOVER IS BAD FOR JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi takeover bill is nearly 2,000 pages of regulations and tax hikes that will strangle small businesses across America. At the same time we celebrate the new jobs being created by Boeing in South Carolina, the Pelosi takeover will destroy jobs, and we must stop it.

Senior citizens are under attack by squeezing Medicare. The Pelosi takeover will impose \$135 billion in taxes on small businesses. In addition, this bill includes nearly \$500 billion in other taxes, including a surtax on small businesses. The Nation's largest small business association, the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, reports that this employer mandate will negatively impact small businesses, eliminating 1.6 million jobs.

I encourage Speaker PELOSI to scrap her health care takeover and to work across the aisle with Republicans to adopt elements of H.R. 3400 and to give small businesses the opportunity to pull together to receive competitive rates.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, when I went home, I went to the laundry.

A gentleman came up to me and said, You know, we've been friends for 40

years, and you're more liberal than I am—I'm a conservative—but let me tell you that I had a heart attack last month. Do you know what it cost? It cost \$100,000. He said, Y'all have got to pass something with this health care. It's just too expensive, and if I were in a different situation, I might lose my health care and might not be able to get it.

I had a Halloween party at a friend's house. I'm 60, and my friends are within the margin of error. They're about the same age. Several of them had had cancer, and they talked about how they couldn't get out of their health policies. The premiums were going up. The deductibles were going up, and it was costing them more and more; and they weren't authorizing certain treatments that they needed.

They said, You need to pass that health care bill. It's important.

I went to my local pharmacy, and a lady came up to me, and she told me about what the cost of prescription drugs was doing to her. I told her we were going to close the doughnut hole, that we were going to help her with her prescription drug prices.

We need to get this country's health care policy where it doesn't destroy the financial condition of people's lives. We need to allow them to move on.

THANKING THE AIRMEN OF BARKSDALE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, my district in northwest Louisiana was hit with severe storms and tornadoes which left neighborhoods tattered, families without homes, and thousands threatened by levees that were threatening to break.

On Friday night, Bossier Parish officials had exhausted all options to save this levee when many citizens and especially the airmen of Barksdale Air Force Base mobilized to protect this community. Colonel Steven Basham assembled 140 airmen; and through their efforts, the levees were saved that night.

Over the days that followed, over 400 airmen worked around the clock to protect the levees, the homes and the families that surrounded it. Enlisted, officers and even generals worked side by side in an effort to make sure that floodwaters did not destroy Bossier Parish.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for their dedication and work during this natural disaster; and I want to say that the efforts of these airmen prove, once again, why the United States military is the greatest assemblage of outstanding men and women in the world.

VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICEMEMBERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3949, which was on the floor of the House today. I was delayed in coming to Washington because I was meeting with my union members to talk about jobs. Yet I am excited about this legislation that Chairman FILNER has brought to the floor, and I thank him for his leadership, which involves protecting and providing for servicemembers. There are currently 25 million veterans—1,630,000 in Texas with 34,000 veterans living in my community.

I am very proud that he put into the bill my vision impairment bill, which will provide for scholarships to help train those who can work with the visually impaired service veterans, many of whom have suffered from the IED explosions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It would also protect parents who can be buried with their children. It will keep servicemembers from being evicted or from being foreclosed on when they're serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Then of course it will provide for small businesses of veterans preferred to be on the list so that they can obtain businesses or business opportunities in the United States Government.

This is very important for the upcoming Veterans Day. We must celebrate our veterans, and I am very grateful that my vision impaired bill is in this bill, H.R. 3949.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call attention to November as American Diabetes Month.

Today, 24 million Americans have diabetes, and in this 1 minute that it takes me to give this speech, three more Americans will be diagnosed. The rate of diabetes cases is definitely on the rise, and it is becoming more severe. Based on our current trends, one out of every three children will eventually suffer from diabetes. Unlike cancer, heart disease and strokes, the death rate due to complications from diabetes has actually increased.

Diabetes not only exacts great personal harm; it imposes financial harm as well. Diabetes in the United States costs \$174 billion annually, and the cost of caring for someone with diabetes accounts for \$1 out of every \$5 in total health care costs.

Changing this trend begins with raising awareness about diabetes. So, Mr. Speaker, let's all commit to doing more to educate Americans on the seriousness of this disease.

THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is the Pelosi health care bill: 1,990 pages. Nobody in this place has even come close to reading it. In addition to that, it costs \$2.25 million per word. That's per word. There are almost 3,500 "shalls" in there, and a "shall" is a mandate that Congress do something. Nobody has read this thing. It's going to cost all this money.

Members of Congress can exempt themselves from being involved in the public option. Every time you go to a town hall meeting, the American people say, Are you guys going to be included? Well, this bill says you don't have to be included if you're a Member of Congress because we're more important than the guy on the street.

You know, this is just a terrible, terrible bill; and the people of this country don't want it passed. I've had five town hall meetings, and the people overwhelmingly are opposed to this thing. They want us to solve the problems of health care. They want us to do it in a responsible way, but they certainly don't want this thing, and this doesn't even include the manager's amendment. This is a bad bill, and it should be defeated.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OCTOBER HAS BEEN THE DEADLIEST MONTH FOR U.S. TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I stood up in the House in late July and said the following words, "Five American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan this week. That brings the death toll in July to 31, making this the deadliest month for our troops since the conflict in Afghanistan began."

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, July didn't hold the record for long. It was quickly replaced by August as the deadliest month. Now, 55 of our troops have died in October, making this the deadliest month yet.

We can't blame the troops for this, of course. They continue to fight with tremendous skill and with bravery. They do everything our Nation asks of them.

So what's to blame? It's our strategy. It's a strategy which has relied almost exclusively on military action for over 8 years while ignoring the critically

important political, economic, and cultural aspects of the conflict. Yet President Obama is now being urged to double down on the military-only policy that has failed us and send in another 40,000 troops.

If we go down that road, what can the American people expect? They can expect higher troop levels, higher casualty rates, and many years of war that can end up costing us over a trillion dollars. Even if we do all that, the odds will still be stacked against us. That's not a strategy for success, Mr. Speaker. I think we can do better.

If we want to succeed in Afghanistan, we must change the way we do business there. Instead of fighting extremists after they have gotten a foothold, let's invest our resources on what would prevent violent extremism from taking root in the first place. That includes economic development, jobs, reconstruction, education, health care, civil affairs, and diplomacy. All would help stabilize Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, a serious commitment to a civilian surge of experts and aid workers to help the Afghan people develop their economy would make a huge difference over there. We must also develop a much better set of rigorous metrics to evaluate progress and report the results to the American people. Then we could develop an exit strategy. We could send the message that our involvement in Afghanistan is not open-ended.

It would also help to reassure the Afghan people that we have no intention of occupying their land, because right now too many Afghan citizens see America as an occupying force. That, more than anything else, Mr. Speaker, is fueling anti-Americanism and the insurgency. We must also do everything we can to assure a credible central government in Kabul to help with humanitarian and other efforts to improve the lives of the Afghan people. These are just some of the elements of smart security that we need to use in Afghanistan.

I have offered a comprehensive strategy for smart security in House Resolution 363, because I firmly believe that it would be a blueprint for victory against extremism in Afghanistan and other parts of the world. Mr. Speaker, by shifting from military power only to smart power, we can help Afghanistan to build a stable and functioning State. We can save the lives of our troops, and we can go a long way toward defeating the extremists who threaten America and the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)